FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES (0506)

Actions to take upon receiving casualty notification.

The Conduct of a Memorial service.

The Conduct of a Funeral.

ACTIONS TO TAKE UPON RECEIVING CASUALTY NOTIFICATION IN YOUR COMPANY

1. Secure the Marine's gear. (personal effects, wall locker, 782 gear, etc.)

2. Call the platoon sergeant and platoon commander. (Remind the duty that notification of next of kin is done in person - not by telephone!)

ACTIONS TO TAKE UPON RECEIVING CASUALTY NOTIFICATION IN YOUR COMPANY (cont)

3. You call the company commander (if not already called)

4. The Duty should then work closely with the OD to get further information about the incident.

5. Tell the Duty you'll be in shortly.

When on I & I Duty. You will normally be notified by the district casualty officer that you are tasked with making a casualty call. As discussed in your class on casualty procedures, you ask the next of kin (NOK) for their desires regarding funeral arrangements, military honors, etc. Another way you will become involved in memorial services or funerals is when a local mortuary director calls and asks you to provide these services.

CONDUCTING A MEMORIAL SERVICE

In Chapel. When conducting memorial services in a chapel the key thing to remember is that the chaplain has the final authority, you are only a support agency.

A sample sequence of events for a memorial service in a chapel is:

1 - Prelude; Musical selections.

2 - Welcome; Usually by the chaplain or commanding officer.

3 - Posting of the Colors and "National Anthem".

4 - Invocation (Posting of Colors and Invocation may be reversed).

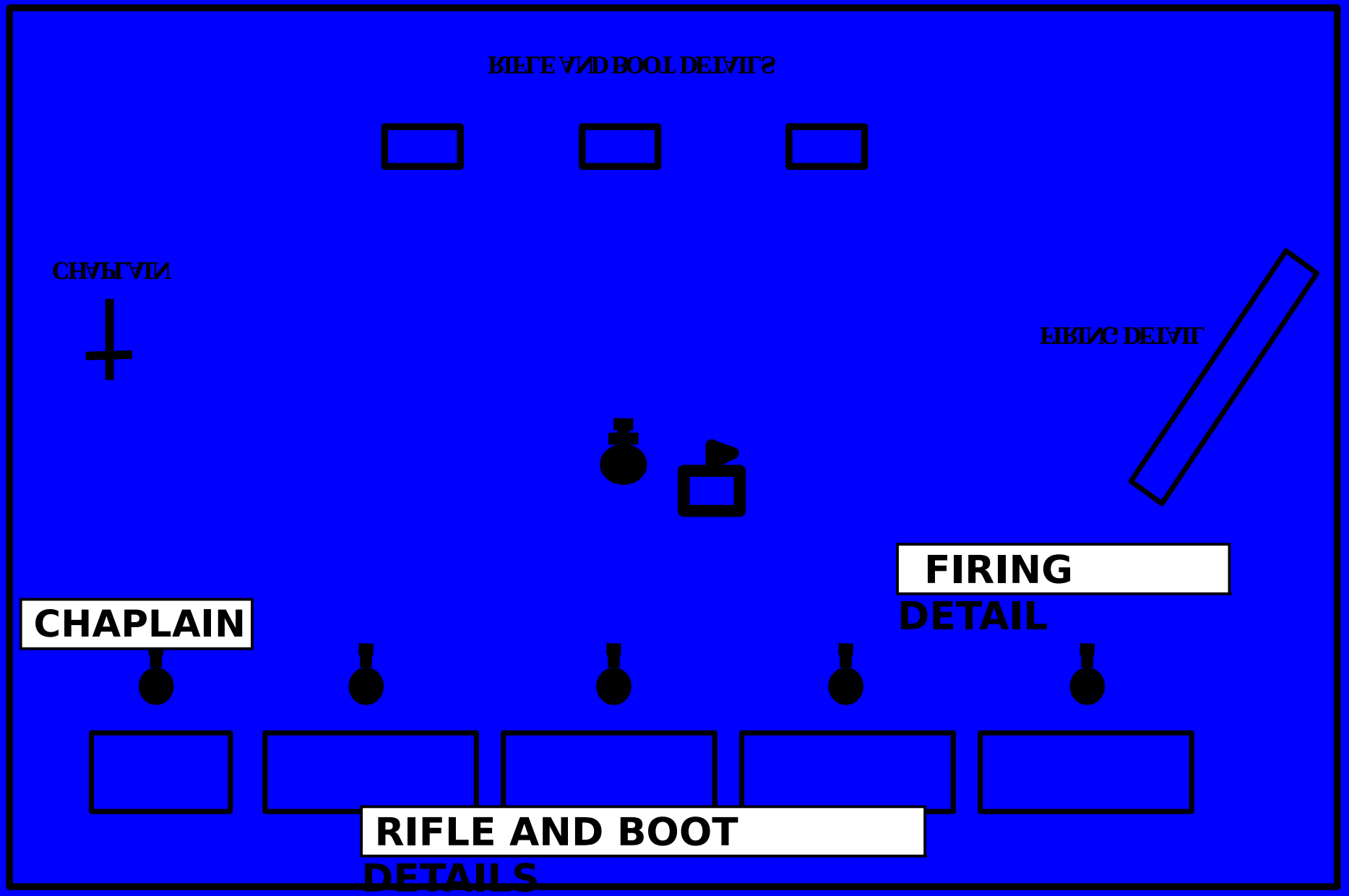
5 - Bible readings, hymns, eulogies, etc. (Navy Hymn, Marine's Prayer, etc).

6 - Taps.

7 - Benediction and Retiring of the Colors (may be in any order)

At Unit Formations

There may be times when conducting a memorial service in a chapel is not possible or desirable. Such as in a combat situation, were no chapel is available, or when the commander desires to have an all hands, out-of-doors, memorial service. An out-of-door memorial service normally consists of; Final roll call; Rifle and Helmet ceremony; eulogy; and firing detail. Annex "A" contains a sample sequence of events.


RIFLE AND BOOT DETAILS
CHAPLAIN
FIRING DETAIL
FIRING
DETAIL
CHAPLAIN
RIFLE AND BOOT
DETAILS

Sequence of Events

1. Company is formed.

2. Prayer

3. Final Roll Call

4. Parade Rest, Eulogies

Sequence of Events
(cont)

5. Company Attention.

6. Honors, Present Arms, Firing Detail, Taps

7. Order Arms.

8. Dismiss Company

CONDUCTING FUNERALS

Chapter 19 of NAVMC 2691, Drill and Ceremonies Manual, gives specific instructions on holding funerals

Funeral Services for Active Duty Marines. Using I & I as an example.

POSITION	FILLED BY
OIC/SNCOIC enlisted).	The I & I (for officers) or first sergeant (for Also presents the flag to the next of kin.
Chaplain	May be the family minister or a reserve Navy chaplain.
Firing Detail pallbearers.)	1 NCOIC 7 Riflemen. (May also double as
Color Guard	4 (May also double as flag folders.)
Bugler high school band)	1 (May be a Marine or a member of the local

Total Requirement = 15

Services for Former Marines

Sequence of Events

(1) OIC, Color Guard, and pallbearers positioned outside of the chapel.

(2) Hearse arrives. OIC Commands "Present, ARMS," then "Order, ARMS." The pallbearers then move to the hearse and carry the coffin into the chapel. (NOTE, the blue field of the flag is placed over the left shoulder of the deceased. The casket is always carried foot first.)

(3) Chapel services are than conducted. (May involve posting and retiring of the colors.)

Sequence of Events (cont)

(4) The casket is then returned to the hearse. As the hearse departs the OIC commands "Present, ARMS," then "Order, ARMS." The funeral detail then quickly boards their transportation for movement to the cemetery.

Sequence of Events (cont)

(5) Once at the cemetery the firing detail/pallbearers quickly stack arms at the location for the firing detail. They then move to the hearse, receive the casket, and carry it to the grave site. The pallbearers then place the casket on the lowering device, the pallbearers then face the direction they must move to assume their positions in the firing detail and march to that position. The color guard would have left the colors in the vehicle, cased. When the pallbearers/firing detail moves to their position the color guard moves to its position, (one member at each corner of the grave), in order to fold the flag. The chaplain would precede the casket to the grave site and the OIC would follow the casket to the grave site.

Sequence of Events (cont)

(6) After the chaplain finishes the grave side services the OIC would command "Firing detail, FIRE THREE VOLLEYS." He would then command the flag folders to "Hand, SALUTE." The firing detail would fire the salute and present arms. The bugler, located about 50 feet from the head of the grave, would then sound "Taps." After the last note of "Taps," all hands go to the order.

Sequence of Events (cont)

(7) The color guard moves to the casket, grasps the flag and folds it in the "cocked hat" fold. The senior color guard then gives the flag to the OIC and salutes. The OIC presents the flag to the NOK with a short dignified statement such as ""This flag is offered by a grateful nation in memory of the faithful service of your (relationship)," then salutes and departs.

Sequence of Events (cont)

(NOTE: When on I & I duty, you should always have one or two extra interment flags and take them to funerals. For instance, what if the spouse and mother of the deceased are both at the funeral? Do they both rate a flag? YES. What if the parents are divorced?)

(8) The funeral detail exits from the field and is dismissed.

QUESTIONS? ?